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Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Forestry Advisory Committee **Meeting**

LOCATION

**Hybrid Meeting: Zoom (details below) and
Northwest Annex Conference Room
Whatcom County Planning and Development Services
5280 Northwest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98226**

Date: December 5, 2023

Time: 4:00-6:00 P.M. Pacific Time PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Whatcom County PDS is inviting you to a scheduled in person or Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88069549567>

Meeting ID: 880 6954 9567

Passcode: 193670

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Forestry Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
for
December 5, 2023
4:00-6:00 P.M.

1. Roll call/Determination of Quorum
2. Agenda Review & Approval
3. Approval of Minutes from 11/7/2023
4. Open Public Session
5. Guest Speaker(s)
 - Chris Elder – [Stewart Mountain Community Forest Strategic Vision Framework](#), updates on forest management planning
6. Subcommittee Reports
 - DNR/BNR Update
 - Whatcom Forestry Profile Subcommittee Update
 - Carbon Subcommittee Update
7. Old Business
 - **Action Item:** Forest Resilience Task Force – Consider appointing two representatives (nominations, candidate statements, discussion, vote)
 - **Action item:** Brokedown Palace timber sale—Discussion & recommendation to Council
8. New Business
9. Announcements
10. Adjournment

Attachments:

- Draft minutes from 11/7/2023

Individuals who require special assistance to participate in the meetings are asked to contact us at least 96 hours in advance. The staff contact at Whatcom County Planning and Development Services is Cliff Strong, cstrong@co.whatcom.wa.us, 360-778-5942.

**Whatcom County Forestry Advisory Committee (FAC)
Meeting Summary
November 7, 2023**

Start Time:	4:00 p.m.
Location:	Northwest Annex Central Conference Room/Zoom

Attendees – Members	Affiliation	Present
David New	Small forest landowner	√
Holly Koon	Small forest landowner	√
John Gold	Commercial forest landowner	
David Janicki	Commercial forest landowner	√
Matt McGee	Harvester	
Quentin Dills	Harvester	√
Jed Dawson	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	√
Bagley Wright	Citizen w/ forestry expertise	
Aubrey Stargell	Forest product manufacturer	√
Susan David	Forest product manufacturer	√
Cory McDonald	DNR	√
Quorum Present		
Staff		
Cliff Strong	W/C PDS	√
Bennett Knox	W/C Parks	√
Public		
Kaylee Galloway	County Council	√
Alan Chapman		√
Tracy Petroske		
Eric Jacoby		√

Meeting Summary

Vice-Chair David opened the meeting at 4:02 PM.

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Agenda Review & Approval

After discussion regarding how the FAC would approach recommending applicants for the FAC (under New Business) and deciding that they would only review for minimum qualifications and not choose a recommended applicant, the agenda was approved as is.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting summary of October 3 were approved.

Open Public Session

Tracy Petroske, one of the applicants to be on the FAC, introduced herself.

Subcommittee Reports

DNR/BNR Update

Cory McDonald reported:

- DNR sold 4 timber sales last month, 2 in Whatcom County

- Regarding the Climate Commitment Act, DNR is still working on identifying the 2,000 acres of carbon-rich, structurally complex forests to bring to the legislature by 12/1
- At the November BNR meeting the Deep River Woods property transaction (9,000 acres in Wahkiakum County) was approved.

Whatcom Forestry Profile Subcommittee

Susan David is working on getting surveys to all mills. Aubrey Stargell provided his draft work to Susan, who will distribute to the rest of the subcommittee. Holly Koon reported that she has now received the 2023 data from the Treasurer. Cory McDonald volunteers to help Holly prepare a map of all DNR-managed lands in Whatcom County. David Janicki is about finished with his portion. The subcommittee agreed that they should meet; Susan will arrange a meeting.

Carbon Subcommittee

Chair Gold will present their work to the Climate Impact Advisory Committee in December.

Old Business

Forest Resilience Task Force

CM Galloway responded to questions from the FAC. There was a discussion regarding who might be interested in serving on the Task Force. Holly, Aubrey, and Susan expressed interest, and also agreed that John (who was absent) might be as well. The FAC will choose their 2 representatives at their December meeting.

Action Item – Lake Whatcom Fire Response

Bennett Knox, Parks & Recreation Director, reported that their staff has inspected the site. They have requested of DNR that the DNR assess the site and recommend actions. He believes this should be completed around December 1st.

Bennett also reported that responses to their RFP for developing a Forest Management Plan are due by 11/21/23, and that he has requested in the budget a Conservation Parks Steward position.

Brokedown Palace Sale Update

There was discussion about what the County Council's statement meant that they will make the Mount Baker School District "whole" after the sale was paused at the Council's request. This is still being worked out between the Council and DNR, and the funds might come from the Climate Commitment Act involving the trade or reclassification of other properties. Aubrey expressed concern about the ramifications on future generations of having taxpayers pay for something that should have been paid for from existing, managed funding streams (i.e., planned timber sales).

New Business

Action Item: Recommendation for a new FAC Member

The FAC reviewed the 5 applications for a new member and moved that they find all 5 highly qualified, but will leave the choice to the County Council.

Announcements

David New reminded the FAC of, and encouraged members to attend, Dr. Elaine Oneil's presentation on "Climate, Carbon, and Our Forests" on 11/30 at the Bellingham Public Library.

Adjournment

Vice-Chair David adjourned the meeting at 5:46 PM. Next meeting is on December 5, 4-6pm; Zoom and Northwest Annex Conference Room.

Board of Natural Resources Approves \$55 Million Forestland Purchase

News Date:
NOVEMBER 7, 2023

The land acquisition, the state's largest in more than a decade, would bring more than 9,000 acres in Wahkiakum County into public ownership

The Washington State Board of Natural Resources approved the \$55 million purchase of more than 9,000 acres of forestland in Wahkiakum County during its meeting Tuesday at the Natural Resources Building.

Each of the four properties is adjacent to lands already sustainably managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources to generate revenue for public services, provide wildlife habitat, and protect water quality.

Funding for the purchases will come from Climate Commitment Act dollars from the Legislature, as well as proceeds from prior transactions by DNR.

"This is a transformational opportunity for Washington state to add to our public lands and keep working forests working," said **Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz**. "I am grateful to the legislators and county commissioners from across western Washington for their longstanding support to ensure we keep providing revenue to schools and public services while meeting the requirements of the Endangered Species Act."

The purchase is set to be the state's largest land acquisition in more than a decade.

"By investing in thousands of acres of working forests in Wahkiakum County, Washington State DNR is helping ensure our woods stay healthy and we maintain thriving local forest product economies," said **U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez**. "Today's investment will help keep our woods working for years to come, and I'll continue fighting at the federal level to support pathways to good jobs in the woods across Southwest Washington."

"The Washington State Association of Counties is thrilled that DNR successfully acquired such a large tract of timberland with this purchase to be managed for commercial timber production and harvest," said **Eric Johnson**, WSAC executive director. "Most counties in our state are rural, and keeping our forestlands intact and in production supports rural jobs and communities. These lands will also provide additional environmental benefits for all Washington residents. This is a great example of an outcome where we don't have to choose between environmental or economic benefits. In this case, we get both."

"We are extremely pleased to support DNR's purchase of timberland in Wahkiakum County," said **Wahkiakum County Commissioner Lee Tischer**. "With this purchase, this land will remain in timber

production in perpetuity, and our county's residents, schools, and fire districts will benefit financially for generations to come."

"Like many counties where timber harvest is an important industry, Skamania County has suffered economically for many years as forestry declined on national forestland," said **Skamania County Commissioner Tom Lannen**. "This purchase is a great step toward increasing revenue for rural counties to provide sorely needed financial resources while assuring access to valuable timber products for the timber industry we all rely upon."

"Jefferson County is thrilled to see such quick action by the DNR to use funding to replace structurally complex, carbon-dense existing forestlands with other working timberlands," said **Jefferson County Commissioner Heidi Eisenhour**. "This purchase will allow DNR to preserve some of our most valuable landscapes while acquiring highly productive replacements that will provide significant environmental and economic benefits for our state's residents. It shows that win-win solutions really are possible."

For the transaction, 941 acres of land would be purchased with \$7.2 million in Real Property Replacement Account funding and would benefit the Common School Trust, which supports K-12 school construction across Washington state. That parcel is on the southern end of the Elochoman State Forest east of Cathlamet, the Wahkiakum County seat.

The other 8,174 acres of land in the transaction, which are north and northwest from Cathlamet, would be purchased with \$47.8 million in Climate Commitment Act funding allocated in the 2023-25 capitol budget. The three properties in that transaction would be held in DNR's Land Bank, allowing it to be designated to support specific trusts at a later date.

The vast majority of the lands approved for purchase have high-quality soils, and tree ages range from recently harvested and replanted stands to those that are mature enough to be harvested.

This transaction is expected to close in mid-December.

DNR has actively purchased forestlands in Southwest Washington recently. During its October meeting, the Board approved [the purchase of 170 acres of land in Pacific County](#); during its September meeting, the Board approved [the acquisition of 182 acres of lands](#) in Clark, Cowlitz, and Pacific counties; during its July meeting, the Board approved [the purchase of 114 acres in Wahkiakum County](#); and in June, the Board approved [the purchase of 640 acres of forestland](#) in neighboring Clark County. DNR also added [266 acres of land in Wahkiakum County](#) in 2021.

For decades, DNR has continued to acquire forestlands across the state to support schools and counties. Since 1980, the department has added more than 100,000 acres of sustainably managed forestland to public ownership through its transactions program.

Maps and photos of the parcels are available at the [Board of Natural Resources website](#).

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